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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/010,215	12/04/2001	Lucas Knopp	214321	7882

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EXAMINER

EVANS, ANDREA A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/010,215

Applicant(s)

KNOPP ET AL.

Examiner

Andrea A. Hence

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION – FINAL REJECTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Beaumont (GB 2341850).

Referring to claim 1, Beaumont teaches a rotary printing machine comprising a pair of sheet holding and transfer systems disposed in side-by-side relation for transferring sheets in the printing machine (Figure 1), said sheet holding and transfer systems defining a sheet transfer area (25) therebetween, a sheet guide apparatus (15) disposed underneath said transfer area, said sheet guide apparatus including a sheet guide which defines a guide surface (16) for guiding movement of sheets adjacent said transfer area, a first pneumatic system (23) for directing air in said sheet guide and through said guide surface for guiding sheet movement along said guide surface and a second separate pneumatic system (13) operable for blowing air stream over an external end of said sheet guide toward said transfer area to facilitate reliable transfer of sheets between said sheet holding and transfer systems.

Referring to claim 2, Beaumont teaches the rotary printing machine in which said transfer area is defined by a tangent point between said sheet holding and transfer systems (See Figure 2).

Referring to claim 3, Beaumont teaches the printing machine which said sheet holding and transfer systems comprise a pair of sheet carrying cylinders (4,5).

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Referring to claim 4, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said sheet transfer and holding systems comprise one sheet-carrying cylinder (5) and a circulating conveyor system (14).

Referring to claim 5, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said second separate pneumatic system is located adjacent a sheet outlet defined by said sheet holding and transfer systems from which sheets are directed (See Figure 1, area left of (15)).

Referring to claim 6, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said second separate pneumatic system is located adjacent a sheet inlet defined by said sheet holding and transfer systems into which sheets are directed (See Figure 1, area right of (15)).

Referring to claim 7, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said second pneumatic system comprises a plurality of controllable fans (13) for directing a low pressure high, volume air flow.

Referring to claim 8, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said second pneumatic system is mounted on said sheet guide (See page 7, lines 5-10).

Referring to claim 9, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said sheet guide (15) includes a first flow duct (17) communicating with openings (page 7, lines 9-10) in said guide surface(16), said first pneumatic system (23) communicating with said first flow duct, and a second flow duct (24)communicating with said second separate pneumatic system and having at least one discharge outlet opening aimed in the direction of the transfer area (See Figure 4).

Referring to claim 10, Beaumont teaches the printing machine of claim 5 in which said sheet guide (15) includes a first flow duct (17) communicating with openings (page 7, lines 9-10) in said guide surface (16), said first pneumatic system (23) communicating with said first flow

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duct, and a second flow duct (24) communicating with second separate pneumatic system and having at least one discharge outlet opening aimed in the direction of said sheet outlet (See Page 4, lines 12-15)

Referring to claim 11, Beaumont teaches the printing machine of claim 6 in which said sheet guide includes a first flow duct (17) communicating with openings (page 7, lines 9-10) in said guide surface (16), said first pneumatic system (23) communicating with said first flow duct, and a second flow duct (24) communicating with said second separate pneumatic system and having at least one discharge outlet opening aimed in the direction of said sheet inlet (See Page 4, lines 15-20).

Referring to claim 12, Beaumont teaches a rotary printing machine comprising a pair of sheet holding and transfer systems disposed in side-by-side relation for transferring sheets in the printing machine (Figure 1), said sheet holding and transfer systems defining a sheet transfer area (25) therebetween, a sheet guide apparatus (15) disposed underneath said transfer area, said sheet guide apparatus including a sheet guide which defines a guide surface (16) for guiding movement of sheets adjacent said transfer area, said sheet guide (15) including a comb with spaced apart guide fingers (17) adjacent said transfer area, and a pneumatic system operable for blowing an air stream externally over an end of said comb and between said guide fingers toward transfer area to facilitate reliable transfer of sheets between said sheet holding and transfer systems (See Page 6, lines 33-37).

Referring to claim 13, Beaumont teaches the rotary printing machine in which said transfer area is defined by a tangent point between said sheet holding and transfer systems (See Figure 2).

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Referring to claim 14, Beaumont teaches the printing machine which said sheet holding and transfer systems comprise a pair of sheet carrying cylinders (4,5).

Referring to claim 15, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said sheet transfer and holding systems comprise one sheet-carrying cylinder (5) and a circulating conveyor system (14).

Referring to claim 16, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said pneumatic system is mounted on said sheet guide (See page 7, lines 5-10).

Referring to claim 17, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said pneumatic system includes a flow duct (17) mounted on said sheet guide (15), said flow duct having at least one discharge outlet opening oriented in the direction of the transfer area (See Figure 2).

Examiner Comments

3. Claims 1-17 are rejected. Applicant comments that according to the subject invention, “a pneumatic system is provided which directs over an external end of the sheet guide and between the fingers of the comb toward the sheet transfer area for improved sheet transfer without sheet marking and smearing against the sheet guide adjacent the transfer area.” As noted in the above rejections, Beaumont teaches the pneumatic system claimed (See page 6, lines 33-37). Also, Examiner notes that the comb shaped sheet guide is not claimed in claim 1.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrea Hence Evans whose telephone number is (703) 305-8427. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday; 8:30a-5:30p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Andrea Evans

AHE
July 29, 2003


REN YAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER